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EGYPT ASKS FOR POSITIVE STAND BY USSRLD 192235. CAIRO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 1800 GMT 19 APR 75  
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(MAHMUD ABD AR-RAHIM COMMENTARY)

(TEXT) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ISMA'IL FAHMI WILL BEGIN HIS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS TODAY, AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN THE FRIENDLY SOVIET UNION. THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION COMES DURING A CRITICAL STAGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ITS PRIME CONCERN IS BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND THE CONVENT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS VISIT, AT THIS TIME IN PARTICULAR, AND THE TALKS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL EFFECT ON DEVELOPING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND ON THE COORDINATION OF STANDS WITH REGARD TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 23 JULY REVOLUTION AND ITS LIBERATION PRINCIPLES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A RELATIONSHIP OF PRINCIPLES AND VALUES AND IS RULED BY FRIENDSHIP EVEN AT THE MOST CRITICAL TIMES. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING THAT PORTRAYS THE ESSENCE, AND NOT THE APPEARANCE, OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION IS THE CRISIS OF DOING WITHOUT THE SOVIET EXPERTS, THE CRISIS WHICH PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RIGHTLY TERMED "A PAUSE WITH A FRIEND." YES, A FRIEND IN THE CONCEPT OF FRIENDSHIP AS UNDERSTOOD BY FREE PEOPLE. IT IS A FRIENDSHIP ABOVE PERSONAL INTERESTS; IT IS BASED ON PRINCIPLES, ON COMMON INTERESTS AND ON CLEAR STANDS.

NOT FOR ONE MOMENT HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THE SOVIET UNION'S STANDS CONCERNING OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHT: ITS STAND IN ARMING US; ITS STAND IN OUR CRISES; ITS STAND CONCERNING OUR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS TO REGAIN OUR TERRITORY AND RIGHT AND TO DEVELOP OUR SOCIALIST COMMUNITY. NOR HAS THE SOVIET UNION FORGOTTEN OUR STANDING UP TO THE SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND TO THE MILITARY BASES SCATTERED AROUND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE DAYS OF THE COLD WAR; ALSO OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST ALLIANCES AND OUR CONFRONTATION WITH POLARIZATION IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH OF THE TWO CAMPS, AND HOW MUCH ALL THIS HAS COST US. EGYPT HAS HAD THE HONOR OF MAKING A BIG CONTRIBUTION TO HOISTING THE BANNER OF NONALINEMENT WHICH EMBRACED THE WHOLE OF THE THIRD WORLD, AND THUS CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGE EXTENT TO BLUNTING THE EDGE OF THE COLD WAR AND ALSO OF POLARIZATION AND ENCIRCLEMENT. PERHAPS NONALINEMENT CONTRIBUTED, TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHANGES, TO REPLACING WAR BETWEEN THE TWO GIANTS BY DETENTE.

THE PATH OF LIBERATION WHICH REVOLUTIONARY EGYPT PURSUED AS THE VANGUARD OF THE WHOLE OF THE THIRD WORLD WAS THE CAUSE OF OUR SUFFERINGS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM AND OF THE PRICE WE HAVE PAID IN THIS RESPECT. MOST PROMINENT OF THESE WERE: THE 1956 TRIPARTITE PLOT AND THE 1967 ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST PLOT. YES, THE PATH OF LIBERATION WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS THE CAUSE THAT BROUGHT TO A HALT TO THE POLARIZATION FEVER WHICH, HAD IT SPREAD, MIGHT HAVE LED MANKIND TO A CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THEREFORE, HAS BEEN A RELATIONSHIP OF GIVE AND TAKE THAT DERIVES FROM DEEP-ROOTED PRINCIPLES WHICH DO NOT ALTER OR CHANGE. BUT HOW NECESSARY IT IS FOR THE COMRADES IN PRINCIPLES TO BE FRANK WITH ONE ANOTHER!

IN THIS RESPECT, WE SHOULD LIKE TO MENTION THE ARAB CAUSE--A CAUSE OF RIGHT AND LEGITIMACY IN STANDING UP TO THE EXPANSIONIST AND COLONIZING ZIONIST AMBITIONS. IT IS THE CAUSE OF AN ARAB NATION WHICH SEEKS NO MORE THAN ITS USURPED TERRITORY AND THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SET UP THEIR HOMELAND AND TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND ALSO TO STAND UP TO AN ISRAELI STUBBORNESS WHICH UTTERLY DISREGARDS ALL THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND THE TWO RESOLUTIONS WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION THE TWO SUPERPOWERS GUARANTEED: THE 1967 RESOLUTION NO. 242 AND THE 1973 RESOLUTION NO. 338. THIS IS THE WHOLE ISSUE.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AN HONEST FRIEND DOES NOT BURDEN HIS BIGGER FRIEND BY ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE; NOR DOES HE ASK FOR ANYTHING WHICH IS UNLAWFUL. BUT WHEN ABSOLUTE LAWFULNESS IS ON THE SIDE OF THE FRIEND WHO ASKS THAT HIS FRIEND ADOPT A NOBLE STAND-- THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE REFUSED. WE SAY ALL THIS KNOWING THAT NOT EVEN AT THE MOST CRITICAL HOURS WE EXPERIENCED DID WE ASK ANYBODY--NO MATTER HOW STRONG HIS FRIENDSHIP-- TO LIBERATE OUR LAND FOR US. NOR HAVE WE ASKED FOR ANY ACTION WHICH EMBARRASSES OR INVOLVES OUR FRIEND, AS ISRAEL DOES WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHAT WE ASK, AND THIS IS DICTATED BY FRIENDSHIP, IS A POSITIVE STAND ON THE SIDE OF OUR ESTABLISHED AND LEGITIMATE RIGHT. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SAID: I ASK FROM THE SOVIETS NORMAL TREATMENT, SUCH AS THEY GAVE SYRIA. I OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT FOR 14 MONTHS THEY DID NOT REPLACE OUR WEAPONS. LAST JANUARY THEY STARTED TO SHIP TO US THE ARMS LISTED IN THE 1973-1974 AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE ALSO REQUESTED FROM OUR SOVIET FRIENDS A GRACE PERIOD WITH REGARD TO THEIR LOANS, JUST AS THEY GRANTED SYRIA. THIS IS BECAUSE WE ARE (WORD INDISTINCT) OF THE BATTLE AND ARE BEING EXHAUSTED ECONOMICALLY; THERE IS ALSO WORLD INFLATION.

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